

## CDC Convenes Experts to Develop Public Health Strategies

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) CKD Initiative was implemented in 2006 in recognition of the growing problem of kidney disease in the United States. In collaboration with partners, the Initiative currently includes surveillance, epidemiology, and state-based demonstration projects and economic studies that are intended to build capacity and infrastructure at CDC for a public health approach to CKD in the United States. The objectives are to 1) assess and monitor the burden of CKD and its risk factors and related preventive practices in the United States; 2) develop methods to identify populations at risk of developing CKD; 3) develop public health strategies to prevent the development of CKD and reduce its progression to kidney failure; and 4) develop models to assess the economic burden of CKD.

In keeping with these objectives, CDC convened a consensus conference of kidney disease experts and other stakeholders to establish priorities and strategies in the public health approach to kidney disease prevention and control. The recommendations and proceedings of the meeting, *Comprehensive Public Health Strategies for Preventing the Development, Progression, and Complications of Chronic Kidney Disease*, have been published in the March issue of the *American Journal of Kidney Diseases* to coincide with National Kidney Month (March) and World Kidney Day on March 12.

The recommendations include:

- Raising awareness of CKD among those at risk
- Routine testing to detect CKD in its earliest stages
- Reducing risk by improving blood pressure control among those with hypertension, and improving blood sugar control among those with diabetes
- Reducing the disease progression among people with CKD by treating hypertension with ACE inhibitors or angiotensin-receptor blockers
- Continuing education of health care providers about CKD management

The panel recommendations and proceedings are available at:

- <http://download.journals.elsevierhealth.com/pdfs/journals/0272-6386/PIIS0272638608017307.pdf> (recommendations) and
- [www.ajkd.org/issues/contents?issue\\_key=S0272-6386\(09\)X0003-X](http://www.ajkd.org/issues/contents?issue_key=S0272-6386(09)X0003-X) (proceedings).

For more information about CDC's CKD initiative, see [www.cdc.gov/diabetes/projects/kidney](http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/projects/kidney) or contact Nilka Rios Burrows at [nmr0@cdc.gov](mailto:nmr0@cdc.gov).

## Healthy People 2020 – CKD Objective Writing Underway

Representatives from several agencies met under the auspices of the Kidney Interagency Coordinating Committee on March 10, 2009 to review a draft version of the Healthy People 2020 Objectives for Focus Area 4: Chronic Kidney Disease. The meeting was led by Paul Eggers, PhD, and Larry Agodoa, MD of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, who are serving as HP 2020 CKD Working Group Chairs.

The draft HP2020 objectives are currently available for public review and comment at the HP2020 website:

[www.healthypeople.gov/HP2020/comments/default.asp](http://www.healthypeople.gov/HP2020/comments/default.asp).

## AHRQ Stakeholders' Meeting Summary Available

Section 152(b) of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) provides Medicare coverage for Kidney Disease Patient Education Services for individuals with Stage IV CKD. Coverage for six educational sessions is designed to provide individuals with comprehensive information regarding the management of co-morbidities, prevention of uremic complications, and each available option for renal replacement therapy. It also provides individuals with the opportunity to actively participate in the choice of therapies and receive information tailored to their individual needs.

On December 16th, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services held two events to solicit stakeholder feedback regarding implementation of MIPPA section 152(b).

The Executive Summary and Transcript for the meeting are now available at the following link:

[www.cms.hhs.gov/CoverageGenInfo/08\\_CKD.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CoverageGenInfo/08_CKD.asp#TopOfPage).



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